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MEMORANDUM FOR CORRESPONDENTS

No. 098-M
April 25, 1994**Statement by Secretary Perry
On The Death of Former Deputy Secretary Donald Atwood
25 April 1994**

"On behalf of everyone in the Department of Defense, I would like to extend my deepest sympathies to the family of Don Atwood. His death saddens all of us, especially those who worked closely with Don during his four years as Deputy Secretary.

"Don served as Deputy during a period of dramatic change. His tenure saw the collapse of Soviet communism and the triumph of liberty in Eastern Europe, the victory of U.S. and allied forces in Desert Storm, and the first years of the downsizing of America's defense establishment. Managing the Defense Department during these events called for a leader with toughness, wise judgment, and concern for those affected by the changes. That's the kind of leadership Don Atwood provided.

"Don recognized that the Defense Department had to change along with the world. He was an innovative leader who carried out much of the Defense Management Report, which called for sweeping improvements in the way Defense does business. His efforts to reform the way we buy things, update our financial accounting systems, and streamline information processing laid the ground work for adjusting defense management to the demands of the post-Cold War era.

"In tackling the tough tasks facing him, Don impressed every one with his patience, good humor, and commitment to maintaining a strong, ready U.S. military. He was determined to get the most out of America's defense dollar and to take care of the men and women -- civilian and military -- who volunteer to provide for America's defense. Don's work as Deputy Secretary helped keep our armed forces the finest in the world. He will be remembered fondly by all members of the Department as a leader, a gentleman, and a public-spirited American."

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Editor's Note: Atwood served as the deputy secretary of Defense from April 24, 1989 until January 20, 1993.